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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2015, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were formed or the Earth received its frame, You are and have been without beginning or ending.

Thank You for the heartbeats we borrow each day. May Your life-sustaining power inspire our lawmakers to trust Your sovereignty and to lean on Your love. Supply their needs from the bounty of Your transcendent goodness, never forsaking them during turbulent times. Rule and reign in Your world in spite of the prevalence of pathology and sin. May Your peace guard and guide our hearts and minds.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU TO WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I would like to welcome Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Washington.

Today's visit between President Obama and the Prime Minister was the first time the leaders of our two countries have met in over a year. It was also their first time meeting since President Obama concluded his deal with Iran.

We know that deal is likely to entrench Iran's nuclear threshold capabilities while helping subsidize terrorist groups, such as Hezbollah and Hamas, that are dedicated to Israel's destruction. We know that the President's deal does not even require Iran to recognize Israel's right to exist.

So I am sure these leaders had much to discuss. I am sure they engaged in a frank discussion. But a relationship based on frank exchanges of views—a relationship centered on substance rather than just personalities—is important for both of our countries. It is, in fact, healthy.

That is certainly true when we hear Iran's Supreme Leader reiterating calls for Israel's destruction. That is certainly true when we hear him saying that change will never happen as he continues to rail against our own country.

So it is good that Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Obama had a chance to meet today. It is good that the Prime Minister will have an opportunity to visit the Capitol again tomorrow as well.

We appreciated his last visit very much. It was important to hear the perspective of a leader for whom threats from countries like Iran and terrorist groups like ISIL and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad are hardly theoretical.

That was made clear when I led a congressional delegation to the Middle East last month that included Congressman BARR and Senators from Arkansas, South Dakota, and Iowa. We met with leaders in Jordan, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and in Israel we had a chance to visit with the Prime Minister. It was productive, it was eye-opening, and it underlined a key point.

Israel's Prime Minister is a great friend of the United States. The bonds between our nations are strong. And I hope we can all find ways to strengthen them further because the threats facing both our countries are real, and they are certainly worrying.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I look forward to meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel tomorrow, and I will have more to say about that in the morning.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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